



Cynthia Lopez, President 2011-2012

Celebrate Rotary

Number 27 for the Week of January 12, 2012

IMPERIAL COUNTY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



Brad Poiriez is the Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO) for the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (you guessed it, ICAPCD). Brad has worked for the ICAPCD for 18 years, and has held the position of APCO since 4/1/2008. It's the job of the APCO to design and implement programs to improve local air quality. Brad and his staff monitor bad things in the air like dust, nitrous oxides, PM 10 (particulate matter smaller than 10 microns), dust, tail-pipe emissions from Mexicali, dust, and other air-borne toxins. A big responsibility of the ICAPCD is monitoring our local agricultural burn days. Meteorological conditions have to be just right before a burn permit is issued. A typical ag burn day is from 10am – 3pm depending on conditions. The County charges a \$76 per year flat fee for up to 40 acres for an ag burn permit. Additional fees are required for additional acreage. In 2008, 52,000 acres were burned by the ag industry. 66,000 acres in 2009. 2010 saw a drop in burned acreage. A total of 38,000 acres were burned that year. And in 2011, 44,000 acres were burned. In 2011 there were 128 “no burn days” recorded.



Q & A - Bill Thomas complained about the dust mitigation fees he paid in order to build his new dealership. Brad said urban and rural dust creators all have to pay for dust mitigation. Ryan Childers asked why dust is regulated in a dusty environment. The answer is: dust is a health hazard. Jon Willis wondered if there is any sort of collaboration between the County air guys and their Mexicali counterparts. The answer is yes, but Mexicali has the worst air quality of all the Mexican border towns. The challenges are huge. Ed Snively questioned whether the white haze seen over the Valley while landing at the airport in Imperial comes from LA. Brad answered yes, and Orange County, Riverside, and San Bernardino also contribute to that haze. One of the proactive programs administered by the ICAPCD is the school alerting system. Parents and teachers can see a green flag flying at participating schools indicating a “good air day”, which means its okay for kids afflicted with breathing ailments to play outside. Larry Bratton thanked Brad for his interesting program by presenting him a certificate acknowledging a \$10 contribution to Rotary’s Polio Plus campaign, made in Brad’s name.

Rotarian of The Month

George McFadden was awarded Rotarian-of-the-Month by President

Cyndy. For the last 10 years, George has dutifully served as Santa at the club’s Christmas party.



George received a beautifully framed, full-color photo of him in action dressed as Santa at the recent Christmas party. Thank you George!

Willie Simmons	6
Art Benevant	7
Bill Thomas	7
Ed Snively	8
George McFaddin	13
Matt Contreras	14
Don Thompson	18
Diane Cason	19
Rudy Rodriguez	21
Jennifer Thomason	27
Les Rogers	27
Phil Heald	28

**JANUARY
BIRTHDAY'S**

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Bill Thomas reminded the Club that the Chamber of Commerce mixer AND the Grand Opening ceremony to his newly re-located Honda dealership were happening later in the evening at the new dealership facility located on Thomas Lane. Our very own Don Thompson of Sizzler catered the event.

President Cyndy told the club that the Board approved the purchase of a table at the Blue Angels Air Show Gala, to be held on Friday, February 3, 2012 at



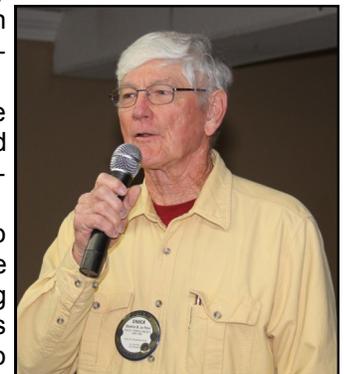
NAF El Centro, in Hangar 4. Trish McNeece informed the club that cocktail hour starts at 6:30pm and dinner follows promptly at 7:30pm. Trish reminded all prospective attendees of the need to show proper ID, including your date of birth at the guard gate, otherwise you'll be denied access to the base and your tuxedo rental will have been wasted. Tickets for the event can be purchased online at www.ElCentroChamber.com. Tickets are \$80 per person, or if a table of 8 is purchased, the ticket price is reduced to \$75 per person, \$600 total.

Randy Miles, DDS reminded us that the Thousand Smiles event was happening on Friday and Saturday, February 3 and 4, 2012 in Ensenada, BC Mexico. This worthwhile event is the proud project of Rotary District 5340. Thousand Smiles is a cleft palate clinic that meets 4 times a year in Ensenada. Potential patients are screened for financial need, so as to not impact the livelihoods of dentists and oral surgeons in the area. Anyone interested in volunteering for the event can speak to Randy about the trip itinerary and event details. Randy mentioned that buses will be provided for volunteers that depart Chula Vista at 5:30am on Friday and Saturday. On the return trip, the buses depart Ensenada each day at 5pm. Additional information can be obtained by visiting www.ThousandSmiles.org

It was noted that Rotary guest, Dr. Ray Loo found the club by searching on line www.ElCentroRotary.com at Kudos to Aaron Popejoy for the good-looking website and search engine optimization that allowed Dr. Ray to find the club and our secret hideout without hiring a detective.

Larry Bratton and Don Thompson announced the upcoming Curt Swain Annual El Centro Rotary Club TRI-TIP BARBECUE. Yes, it's that time of year again! The format is the same as past years. Patrons drive through the El Centro Chamber of Commerce Building parking lot, hand tickets to a club volunteer, then drive away with their tasty meals. The big event is to be held on Thursday March 29, 2012 from 4pm to 7pm. All club members are expected to sell, sell, sell those blue tickets. The per-plate price is \$10. Be sure to add your name to the barbecue work-duty sign-up sheet when it's passed around the club during our weekly meetings. Volunteers who work the event will be exempt from fines on March 29, 2012. Those who sign up but don't show up...well you know what's in store for you!

Visiting Rotarian Chuck LePere invited El Centro Rotarians to experience fine wine and fine food at the El Dorado Hills Rotary Club & Cameron Park Rotary Club fundraiser called Wine at Town Center. El Dorado Hills and Cameron Park are near Sacramento. In the past, the event has featured 52 wineries and 22 restaurants. The date is Saturday, June 9, 2012. Here's another reason to escape our summer heat. Tickets for the event are \$45 per person, and can be purchased online at www.CameronParkRotary.org, click on the Wine at Town Center link at the top of the website home page.



Our next meeting will be held on
Thursday, January 26, 2012
the PAL facility located at 1100 North 4th St.
Meet at 12:00 noon
If you miss Rotary, you miss out!



Visiting Rotarians and Rotarians with guests



Larry Bratton introduced visiting Rotarian and past El Centro Rotarian, Chuck LePere from the Cameron Park Rotary Club. Prez Cyndy proudly introduced her birth parents, Hector and Sandra Lopez, who came to cheer on their "little girl".



Hector, who is known south of El Centro as "Big H" is a past Calexico Rotary President. His lovely wife Sandra is a retired guidance counselor from Calexico High School. Big H and Big S reside in Mesa, AZ when they are not residing in Flagstaff, AZ...figure that one out.



Dan Nuffer continued the introductions of Rotarians with guests. Dan Williams brought his son, Drew (the Kiwanian). Chuck LePere introduced his wife JoAnn. Steve Birdsall introduced El Centro City Attorney, Kris Becker. Nancy Thornburg's guest was Carlos Figari, Director of the Small Business Development Center in El Centro. Carlos was a 3-time Rotary past-president in Yuma. Pastor Ron introduced Ray Mun Loo, MD from ABC Pediatric Medical Group. Newest Rotarian Edgard Garcia brought his lovely wife, Ari Garcia.



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PLEDGE, PRAYER AND SONG



Pastor Ron kicked off the meeting with his trusty guitar and a patriotic rendition of God Bless America. Everybody sang off-key but Ron's guitar hid the offense rather

POT



Guest Joann LePere's lucky number was drawn, putting \$111 in her pocket. She drew a white chip from the bag, meaning the big prize of \$516 is rolled over to next week.

Perfect Attendee's Honored



Cyndy acknowledged those Rotarians with perfect December attendance. Pictured L to R: Rudy Rodriguez, Lee Hindman, Ed McGrew, Randy Miles, Aaron Popejoy, Bob Barros, Bruno Hildebrandt, Bob



Hahn, Ron "Pastor Ron" Griffen, Larry Bratton, Dan Nuffer, Rosa Caro, John Willis, Don Thompson. Not present, Edgar Aguilar, Ryan "I'm the next president" Childers, Rotarians with perfect quarterly attendance: Bob Barros, Phil Heald, Dan "48 years – perfect attendance" Nuffer, Don Thompson, and Rudy Rodriguez. The quarterly perfect- attendees were treated to a Target gift card from our President.

WHINING AND FINING



Larry Bratton was AWOL at the Snowbird Breakfast. Apparently, Larry signed up to help out but Larry claimed to have arrived at a time other than the right time. Don Thompson said he believed Larry, because Larry is always dependable with his volunteerism. Sebio Arballo and Georgia Libsack were also sign-up no-shows. Larry, Sebio, and Georgia each contributed \$50 to the club, and Georgia added \$100 to her Paul Harris.



Trish McNeece has been seen without her badge lately. Trish claims to have been without it for months. That little admission cost Trish \$25.



Andy Horne graced us with his presence. Trying to pre-sell Prez Cyndy on a reduced fine, Andy proclaimed Cyndy was doing a great job as Club President. In typical Andy fashion, he blamed Christmas and New Year for his absence. Andy



was awarded 2 tickets to the upcoming United Way Gala. All he had to pay was the \$40 per ticket delivery fee. President Cyndy then hit Andy with a \$40 club fine for missing December. Welcome back, Mr. Horne!

Erik Freeman tried to go unnoticed and snuck out early. It's hard NOT noticing Erik! Maybe he won't notice the fine that awaits him next week.

Tom Budde is recovering from a cold. Is this really newsworthy? Anyway, it seems he was infected at a Celine Dion concert in Las Vegas. In lieu of a fine, Tom was asked to name the last 5 people who joined the club. He was able to point out 2 of the 5, but had no idea what their names were. For this lack of attention to detail, Tom paid \$50 to the club and \$100 towards his Paul Harris. The 5 newest members are: Gabe "Gabey Baby" Contreras, Edgard Garcia, Susan Fitzpatrick, Jon Willis, and Bruno Hildebrandt.

Jeff Sturdevant was called on to report. Jeff reports nothing, other than he's doing fine. Our quick-thinking President asked Jeff to name the 5 newest Rotarians. He drew a blank and a fine. NOTE: This is bound to come up again and again, so if you missed it the first time, the fab 5 are: Gabe "Gabey Baby" Contreras, Edgard Garcia, Susan Fitzpatrick, Jon Willis, and Bruno Hildebrandt.

Honorable Mention – Don Thompson thanked Bob Mapes for picking up and returning the grill used for the Snowbird Breakfast. Frank Miranda was also thanked for driving the pilot car. Just how BIG is this grill? Hint: Sign up as a volunteer for next year's Snowbird Breakfast and see first-hand the enormity of this mega-grill. Many thanks to Bob and Frank, and all other participating Rotarians!